

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1388

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GE, GW, UR, US, UK, WB

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON BERLIN ACCESS INTERFERENCE

REF: MOSCOW 11841

1. I DELIVERED ORAL STATEMENT TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV AT 4:00 PM AUGUST 5. AFTER READING STATEMENT, I EMPHASIZED POINT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA IS NOT VIOLATION OF QA, WHILE EXCLUSION OF EMPLOYEES FROM TRANSIT ROUTES CLEARLY IS. I NOTED THE SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE UNIMPEDED TRANSIT TRAFFIC AND SAID THAT OUR DECISION TO POSTPONE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE GDR WAS A MEASURE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN.

2. KUZNETSOV RESPONDED IN HIS USUAL AGREEABLE TONE BUT WITH SOME FAIRLY SHARP LANGUAGE. HE SAID THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA VIOLATES THE QA. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE REASON TO SET THE OFFICE UP IN WEST BERLIN; THE ACT WAS THERE-
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FORE A DELIBERATE CHALLENGE. THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE

FEA ESTABLISHMENT DOES NOT VIOLATE THE QA WAS MADE BY THE THREE WESTERN POWERS; BUT THERE ARE FOUR SIGNATORIES TO THE QA AND THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT CONSULTED. HE EMPHASIZED THE QA LANGUAGE THAT WEST BERLIN IS NOT A PART OF THE FRG AND NOT TO BE GOVERNED BY IT, REFERRED TO THE SOVIET MFA'S JULY 20 STATEMENT, AND CALLED FOR SCRUPULOUS OBSERVANCE OF THE QA BY THE THREE WESTERN POWERS. REVERTING TO MY STATEMENT ON THE U.S. DECISION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, KUZNETSOV SAID THAT, WHILE THIS WAS OF COURSE OUR BUSINESS, HE REGRETTED IT AND BELIEVED IT COMPLICATED THINGS EVEN FURTHER. KUZNETSOV CONCLUDED HIS RESPONSE BY SAYING THAT HIS REMARKS CONSTITUTED A PRELIMINARY COMMENT AND THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD STUDY THE ORAL STATEMENT TO SEE IF IT WARRANTS FURTHER COMMENT.

3. I DISPUTED KUZNETSOV'S ASSERTION THAT FRG ACTION CONTRAVENES THE QA AND IS INTENDED AS A DIRECT CHALLENGE. I SAID THAT THE FEA IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE QA PASSAGE THAT WEST BERLIN IS NOT A PART OF THE FRG AND WITH THE QA LANGUAGE ON THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FRG TIES WITH WEST BERLIN. I STRESSED THAT IT HAS BEEN OUR CONSTANT DESIRE TO PREVENT BERLIN'S BECOMING A CENTER OF TENSION; THAT IS WHY WE REJECT THE GDR ACTIONS, WHICH ARE A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE QA.

4. COMMENT. UNLIKE THE SOVIET RESPONSES TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH--WHICH STUCK QUITE CLOSE TO THE SOVIET MFA STATEMENT OF JULY 20--KUZNETSOV MADE NO ALLUSION TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF FEA ESTABLISHMENT NOR ANY OTHER VEILED THREATS. HIS PRESENTATION WAS NONETHELESS A FIRM ONE. ITS MORE FREE-WHEELING CHARACTER--IN COMPARISON WITH WHAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH HEARD--IS EXPLAINED BY KUZNETSOV'S HIGHER POSITION AND POSSIBLY BY THE ADDITIONAL TIME THE SOVIETS HAD TO PREPARE A RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE, WHICH CAME SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ONES.

5. WE HAVE FOLLOWED PRESS GUIDANCE SET OUT IN REFTTEL.
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